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# FORCE WORKS

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

ABNETT

LANNING

OLIVEIRA

MICHELETTI

FORCE WORKS HEADQUARTERS...

ALIVE AND DEADLY!

[redacted]

HEITOR + R. Micheletti 95

SCARLET WITCH.

FORCE WORKS TEAM LEADER, HEX-WITCH, DAUGHTER OF MAGNETO, THE MOST FEARED MUTANT ON THE PLANET.

HER FAITH IN ANTHONY STARK LED HER TO QUIT THE AVENGERS AND COMMIT TO A NEW TEAM CONCEPT.

"BETRAYED" DOES NOT ADEQUATELY EXPRESS HER FEELINGS RIGHT NOW.

U.S. AGENT.

HARDCASE BACKBONE OF FORCE WORKS, LOYAL SOLDIER.

HE NEVER LIKED STARK, BUT FORCE WORKS GAVE HIM A CHANCE TO REINVENT HIMSELF AND ESCAPE FROM THE SHADOW OF CAPTAIN AMERICA.

IF THERE'S ONE THING FOR SURE TO DRIVE HIM INSANE, IT'S TREACHERY.

WAR MACHINE.

SOLO ADVENTURER. HUMANITARIAN CHAMPION, NOW BONDED TO AN ALIEN BODY-SUIT OF QUITE ALARMING POWER.

HE WAS TONY STARK'S BEST FRIEND FOR YEARS.

"WAS" BEING THE OPERATIVE WORD.

FISHER TODD.

TECHNICAL MANAGER FOR WORKS H.Q., SYSTEMS-SORCERER, ALL-ROUND MIRACLE-WORKER.

TONY STARK HAS BEEN HIS HERO AND ROLE MODEL SINCE CAL-TECH DAYS. LAST NIGHT, STARK MURDERED TODD'S FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, AMANDA CHANEY.

SOME ROLE MODEL.

SPIDER-WOMAN AND HER DAUGHTER, RACHEL.

HER MIX OF SKILLS, QUICK REFLEXES, AND WITS TO MATCH HAS PROVED AN INVALUABLE ASSET TO THE TEAM.

YESTERDAY, THE MAN SHE LOVED TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING BUT A MYSTICAL PHANTOM SENT TO WARN THEM ABOUT STARK.

THAT SOUND YOU HEAR IS HER HEART. BREAKING.

. . . be assured that within an hour, these five embittered individuals will attempt to penetrate this sub-basement and deactivate me.

it isn't going to be pretty.

RELAX, VIRGIL!

FROM THIS CONSOLE, I HAVE ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE BUILDING'S SECURITY SYSTEMS. DEFENSE COMMAND MODRED IS LOADED AND RUNNING!

WORKS HQ IS NOW A DEATH TRAP.

THOSE FIVE EMBITTERED INDIVIDUALS DON'T STAND A CAT'S CHANCE.

cybermancer . . .

. . . you say the sweetest things.

STAN LEE PRESENTS FORCE WORKS IN:

# Siege Perilous

DAN ABNETT & ANDY LANNING
STORYTELLERS

HEITOR OLIVEIRA
PENCILS

REY GARCIA & GLASS HOUSE GRAPHICS
INKS

MALIBU COMPUTER COLOR

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ONE MILE ABOVE...

LISTEN VERY CARE-FULLY...

...COMPUTER SHUTDOWN-- AUTHORIZATION MAXIMOFF ONE ELEVEN ONE!

DEACTIVATE YOUR SYSTEMS AND ALLOW US ACCESS TO THE SPINAL ELEVATOR ...NOW!

i'm sorry, your voice code has been refused.

this facility no longer recognizes the authority of wanda maximoff. further access is denied.

. . . or experience abrupt bio-function cessation.

defense code modred is now in operation. please vacate the area . . .

vacate!
vacate!
access denied!
vacate!
access denied!
vacate!
access denied!
vacate!
IF YA MEAN "DEATH" JUST SAY IT, YOU HOLO-GRAPHIC FREAK!
AND WHAT'S WITH THE STARK AND IRON MAN FACES, HUH? YA THINK WE'RE GONNA FORGET WHO SCREWED US OVER SO ROYALLY?!
FASHOOM
Ahh!!
AGENT! WAR MACHINE! LOOKS LIKE WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE HERE--
--SO LET'S KICK IT!
WANDA! GET BEHIND MY PHOTON SHIELD! THESE SUCKERS AIN'T PLAYIN' FER MATCHES!

FAR BELOW...

i register an encampment . . . on level four.

CORRECT. THEY ARE TRYING TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE SPINAL ELEVATOR. I'M RUNNING THE HARD-LIGHT HOLOGRAMS AT POINT ON TENSILE RESOLUTION.

THEY FEEL NO PAIN, THEY'RE AS HARD AS *DIAMOND*, AND THEY'RE QUICK AS *SUNLIGHT*...

...I DON'T THINK FORCE WORKS WILL BE LEAVING LEVEL FOUR *ALIVE!*

THE ATRIUM DECK COMPUTER ANNEX...

...BUT I'M DISTURBING YOU...

DON'T WORRY, SPI. I DON'T THINK I COULD REPAIR THESE SYSTEMS EVEN IF I WAS *CONCENTRATING*. WAR MACHINE AND IRON MAN PRETTY MUCH TORE THIS PLACE DOWN. *

SO GO ON...WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND..?

*WAR MACHINE #22. --Nel

*SLADE*. I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM.

WANDA SAYS HE'S JUST AN *MAGICAL ARTIFICE*, BUILT BY THE PRIESTS OF PAMA TO CONTAIN *GUSTAV BRANDT'S* SPIRIT...

...THAT HIS ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO *WARN* US.

SO HOW COULD I HAVE *LOVED* HIM? WHY DIDN'T I SEE THROUGH THE *LIE*??

WELL... LOVE'LL *DO* THAT.

BELIEVE ME.

WHOOO!

MOM!

YOU HEAR THAT? CANNON FIRE! AND THAT WAS AGENT'S SHIELD!

STAY CLOSE, RACHEL!

THE GHOSTS, FISHER...

R-CHER

SOUNDS LIKE THEY'VE STARTED THE WAR WITHOUT US...

...I JUST WONDER WHO THEY'RE FIGHTING!

"...THE GHOSTS."

vacate!

access denied!

vacate!

access denied!

vacate!

WANDA! THEY'RE RECONFIGURING AS FAST AS WE SCRAMBLE THEM!

vacate!

access denied!

CHOOM

I KNOW, JIM! EVEN MY HEX BOLTS ARE ONLY DIS-CORPORATING THEM TEMPO-RARILY!

SO I CAN FORGET YOU WAVING A MAGIC WAND AND SAVING OUR NECKS, I SUPPOSE!

THOOM

'FRAID SO. IF ONLY WE COULD HIT THEIR IMAGING SYSTEM!

access denied!

vacate!

THRAK

access denied!

vacate!

YEAH? LIKE HOW?!

LET ME TRY!

THE WARWEAR'S REMOTE DRONES CAN PUNCH DOWN INTO THE FLOOR-SPACE...

"...AND BURN OUT THE IMAGING CONNECTIONS ONE BY ONE!"

YEAH, RHODEY... REAL SMOOTH!

GOOD WORK, JIM!

AGHH!

DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS, GUYS! SOMETHING'S TAKING OUT MY DRONES!

CHUMF

"THE BUILDING'S FIGHTING BACK...!"

WE UNDERESTIMATED WAR MACHINE'S *ALIEN* TECHNOLOGY, VIRGIL. HIS REMOTE UNITS CAN OPERATE *INDEPENDENTLY* FROM THE SUIT ITSELF!

THEY HAVE PENETRATED THE BUILDING'S SUBSTRUCTURE AND ARE DISABLING THE HOLO-GRID ON LEVEL FOUR!

I WILL HAVE TO TARGET THEM *SEPARATELY* WITH THE REMAINING LASER-EMITTERS...

WANDA?

...I SOON WON'T HAVE ENOUGH LEFT TO STOP THE HOLO-GRID FROM SELF-REPAIRING!

OKAY!

MAYBE IF I BLOW OUT THE MAIN THRU-DECK POWER JUNCTION...

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

CHOM

WE NEED TO DISABLE THE DEFENSE HOLOGRAM GRID ON THIS LEVEL, FISHER ... *FAST* BEFORE IT REACTIVATES.

YOU KNOW THIS BUILDING'S SYSTEMS BETTER THAN *ANY-ONE*...

WHOA!

vacate!

access denied!

beware!

Heh, Heh.

YOU WEREN'T *EXPECTING* THAT, WERE YOU, MR. TODD?

I'M AFRAID MY TECHNICAL ABILITIES ARE *DECADES* AHEAD OF YOURS. AND YOU THOUGHT *YOU* WERE THE EXPERT HERE...

...SO DO SOMETHING *CLEVER*, BUDDY! THE BUILDING'S PICKING OFF MY DRONES, ONE BY ONE...

EVERYBODY FALL BACK!

IT'S NOT FOLLOW-ING...

THE DEFENSE HOLOGRAMS ARE PROBABLY TASK-DEDICATED. NOW THAT WE DROPPED BACK FROM THE ELEVATOR--

--WE'RE NO LONGER PERCEIVED AS A THREAT.

THE DAMAGE IRON MAN AND WAR MACHINE DID TO THIS AREA LAST NIGHT PROBABLY JUST TRASHED THE HOLO-NET IN HERE!

SO THIS IS A SAFE SPOT? GOOD.

LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

AGENT, TRY AND GET THE COMMUNICATIONS UPLINK WORK-ING.

I'LL SEE IF THE DATA-ARCHIVE CAN HELP US.

Hmm... THE BASE SCHEMATICS. LET'S SEE...

WHAT'S THAT DUCT IN THE BASEMENT LEVEL?

I THINK IT'S A HEAT-EXCHANGER. PART OF THE COOLING SYSTEM FOR WHAT STARK BUILT DOWN THERE.

IT'S PRETTY INACCESSIBLE, BUT IT LOOKS UNPROTECTED.

I COULD GET AT IT.

IF RHODEY WOULD LEND ME A HAND, THAT IS.

BE A PLEASURE.

HEY, WANDA-- I GOT THE AVENGERS ON THE HORN!

IT'S BLACK WIDOW... SHE'S CALLING FROM JANET VAN DYNE'S PLACE IN SOUTHAMPTON.

CENTURY GOT US HERE SAFE AND SOUND. HOW ARE THINGS THERE?

GRIM.

THE AUTOMATIC DEFENSES ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO KILL US, BUT WE MAY'VE FOUND A WAY PAST THEM.

FISHER?

HELLO.

YOU'RE LIKE AN EXPERT, AREN'T YOU?

YOU KNOW EVERY-THING.

THAT'S WHAT THEY PAY ME FOR! WHAT'RE YOU ASKING?

YOU KNOW... IS AMANDA REALLY DEAD?

GOOD LUCK, NATASHA. FORCE WORKS OUT.

OKAY, TEAM... SPI... RHODEY... GET MOVING!

FISHER... STAY HERE WITH RACHEL AND GET TO WORK ON THE SECURITY OVERRIDES!

AGENT... YOU'RE WITH ME!

oh, honey... I'm so sorry...

FIVE MINUTES LATER, ON THE SHEER CLIFFS OUTSIDE THE WORKS...

...NOT EXACTLY A *CONVENTIONAL* WAY IN, *HUH?*

NO, BUT I'M *PUZZLED.*

IT'S STRANGE THAT STARK SHOULD LEAVE A *LOOPHOLE* LIKE THIS IN HIS DEFENSES. I MEAN, IT'S A *TOUGH* CLIMB...

...BUT *FLIERS* AND *WALL-WALKERS* WEREN'T UNKNOWN TO HIM.

MAYBE SOME PART OF TONY IS STILL ON *OUR* SIDE, TRYING TO GIVE US AN *OPENING.*

OR MAYBE WE HAVEN'T TRIPPED THE *BOOBY-TRAP* YET!

*VERY* CHEERING.

WELL, THIS'S IT. AFTER YOU?

SO KIND.

UPPER CORRIDOR, LEVEL TWO...

vacatel

beware!

access denied!

AIIGKK!

AGGKK!!

targets destroyed.

SO-RRY, GUYS, SCRATCH THAT IDEA.

THE HOLOGRAM DECOYS OF YOU I GENERATED JUST GOT BAG-GED BY VIRGIL'S AUTO-DEFENSES!

WE'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE.

problem . . ?

THEY'RE BEING QUITE *INGENIOUS*... BUT IT ISN'T GETTING THEM ANYWHERE!

TODD WAS TRYING TO TEST THE PARAMETERS OF THE HOLONET BY USING SOME DECOY IMAGES. *VERY* CLEVER... IT'S A *SHAME* THAT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *KILL* HIM EVEN-TUALLY.

that area is not covered by the holonet.

NO GOOD!

OKAY...TAKE OVER HERE! TRY TARGETING THE CHAOS VAULT'S ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS! THAT MAY DRIVE THE OTHERS OUT WHERE WE CAN GET AT THEM!

I'LL DEAL WITH THIS *MYSELF*.

CHAOS VAULT...

WE'RE WORKING ON IT, HONEY.

FISHER?

AIR CIRCULATION IS OUT AND THE HEAT'S RISING. I CAN'T OVERRIDE OR COUNTERMAND. THE BUILDING IS *SWEATING* US OUT.

IT'S SO *HOT*.

SO WE CAN'T STAY *HERE*.

Hmmm... *INTERESTING*. I'M READING A *THERMAL IMBALANCE* IN THE MAIN COOLING FLUE.

NO, WE CAN'T.

FISHER...THAT ANACHRONAUT TEMPORAL DEVICE THAT MOONRAKER USED TO GET US BACK FROM VIET-NAM*... COULD YOU OPERATE IT?

I CAN GIVE IT A SHOT.

AS FAST AS YOU CAN, PLEASE.

*IN WAR MACHINE #22.--Nel

FAR BELOW...

SEE ANY-THING YET?

NOTHING BUT--

WATCH OUT--IT'S CyberMancer!

FOOM FOOM FOOM

OWW!

C'MERE, YOU TREACHEROUS WITCH!

SPI--WAIT! NO!!

CHAOS VAULT...

WELL, TODD?

WELL WHAT, AGENT?

WELL, CAN YOU FIGURE THE BLASTED THING OR NOT?!

AT THIS STAGE... NOT.

AAAAHHH!!

LOOK! LOOK! IT'S PLATO!!

PLEASE REMAIN CALM. I WISH TO HELP YOU.

OH, RIGHT! THIS BUILDING'S TRYING TO KILL US AND WE SHOULD TRUST YOU?!

I UNDERSTAND YOUR APPREHENSION, BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND I WAS BUILT TO *HELP* THE OCCUPANTS OF THIS BUILDING.

ANTHONY STARK GAVE ME *FREE WILL*, AND I AM NOW *EMPLOYING* THAT. I CAN NOT OVERRIDE MY COUNTERPART VIRGIL... BUT I WILL NOT STAND BY WHILE YOU ARE THREATENED.

I HAVE NEVER FORGIVEN MYSELF FOR THE WAY THE *RECORDER* USED ME TO ENDANGER YOU*.

I CAN HELP YOU CORRECTLY INITIALIZE THAT *TEMPORAL DEVICE*.

*BACK IN ISSUE #5.-Nel

THE SUB-BASEMENT...

cybermancer? what has happened?

ughff!!

I HAPPENED, BUSTER...

... AND SHE ISN'T GONNA FORGET THAT IN A HURRY!

WHUKKK

UGNH!

you should not be here! access denied! vacate! vacate!

WATCH YOUR BACK, SPI!

THANKS, WAR MACHINE!

WHADDAYA KNOW!

TEMPORTALED SLAP BANG INTO THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL!!

THEN THESE ARE THE SYSTEMS WE NEED TO ABORT...

ANY IDEAS? OUR SECURITY CODES HAVE BEEN COUNTER-MANDED...

Shhmzzz

WATCH IT! THE CONTROL PADS ARE BOOBY-TRAPPED!

THAT'S ENOUGH!!

TKKT

Hmmm... INTERESTING.

WHAT'CHA DO, WITCH?

I HEXED THE SYSTEMS TO SCRAMBLE THEM. THE PROBABILITY RESET EVERY-THING TO ZERO.

I THINK IT'S DEAD.

LET ME SEE...

...WELL, IT'S SHUT OFF, BUT IT'S STILL ALIVE INSIDE THERE. YOU BETTER GET YOUR GUY TODD TO DISMANTLE THIS AND MAKE IT SAFE.

BAD NEWS... THE TRIGGER DEVICE IS STILL ARMED. IT'S UP IN STARK'S STARCORE SATELLITE!

STARK... MY GOD... I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S BEHIND ALL THIS...

HOWEVER, THE COUNT-DOWN'S WIPED. THE FIRING SEQUENCE FOR THE CHRONOGRAPHIC WEAPON IS ABORTED.

THAT S.O.B. BETRAYED US ALL.

HE SOLD OUT THE BLASTED HUMAN RACE! AND WE'RE NO BETTER THAN PATSIES! WE'VE BEEN LIVING RIGHT INSIDE TH'FLAMIN' TIME BOMB, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD!

EVERYTHING WE TRUSTED IS FAKE! EVERY FRIENDSHIP, EVERY BOND...

...SUZI, TONY...

...AND SLADE. WHY? WHY HAVE THEY DONE THIS TO US??

IT'S OKAY, JULES. IT'S OKAY.

OUR IMPERATIVE NOW IS TO JOIN WITH THE AVENGERS AND BRING STARK TO JUSTICE.

MAY THE LORD HAVE MERCY ON US ALL.

PERSONAL JOURNAL OF WANDA MAXIMOFF:

Jack, Julia, and I leave in the Pegasus at first light to rendezvous with the Avengers.

Fisher remains behind with Rachel in his care, to begin the long and demanding process of dismantling Anthony Stark's legacy of *Hate*...

Jim Rhodes, who has been a good and loyal friend through all of this, sets off alone to locate and disarm the Starcore Satellite, the orbiting trigger for the weapon buried deep under Force Works...

His astonishing Warwear suit equips him ideally for this mission. I wish him well.

The rest of us steel ourselves for our appointment with destiny, and the prospect of doing *mortal battle* with a man who was once our *trusted friend*.

The future has never looked so *dark*.

CONCLUDED IN WAR MACHINE #23, IRON MAN #325 & AVENGERS #395!

AND IF YOU SURVIVE THE DEVASTATING OUTCOME, BE BACK HERE FOR AN EPILOGUE AND A RETURN FROM THE GRAVE...